

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, March, 19. 1706.

I Have done with the Cases of Distress'd Debtors, I am glad any of them are like to have any Relief by the Act now depending ; if I have been any way Instrumental to the moving the National Compassion to them, I shall be glad ; if not, I am thorowly satisfi'd, I have done my part, with a single Design for the Publick Good, with no Prospect of Service or Advantage to my self, either one way or other.

As to those Gentlemen that are disappointed by the Fury and Sollicitations of Cruel and Merciless Men, the only Advice I have to give those Gentlemen, is, That they would furnish themselves with Patience, against the Cruelty of Unreasonable Men ; perhaps by another Years Experience, of the Inconvenience of their Furi-

ous Methods, and the general Loss these things are to Creditors, as well as Debtors ; the Injury to Trade, the General Depopulation, the Loss of useful and Diligent People, and the settling of our Manufacturers in Foreign Parts, they may be mov'd to consider, That making Tradesmen Desperate, is not the way, either to prevent the Mischief, or recover their Money.

If I am ask'd what I would say to their making Terms with them, I Answer ; I acknowledge it is the Duty of every Honest Man to give all Men all their Due —But when an Honest Man, is render'd Unable to Pay his just Debts, there is then a Debt of Honesty of another sort, and that is, not to make Difference among his Creditors, and pay one more than another ;
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to Pay some all, and others part or none, is a wrong to those, who receive less than the other ; and therefore in General, if the Creditor will not agree to take what the Debtor has, and divide it equally ; I cannot say, the Debtor is bound to Surrender his Effects among them, till they will agree : And if all Debtors, would practise this with a true Design, to Execute justly a Division and nothing else ; I am persuaded, there would be less occasion for Commissions of Bankrupt than there is, and less Encouragement for their Proceeding, by such Expensive and Extravagant Methods.

If therefore a Man finds himself Embroil'd, and intangled in such Troubles, as he cannot recover from ——— And since when he fails, a Commission of Bankrupt, by the Villany of Commissioners, and the positive Humour of Furious Men, is very likely to expend a greater part of the Effects, than it will divide ; I could wish all Men would, if possible, so secure their Effects, as to be able to defeat the End of a Statute, and make it more worth while to their Creditors to use them well, than to be Cruel and Barbarous.

I confess 'tis dangerous, with respect to the Honesty of the Debtor, and his really applying it to a right End ; but certainly for Commissioners to Spend 500*l.* or as sometimes they do, as many Thousands in Sittings, Feastings, Drunkenness, Litigious and Vexatious Law Suits, and then leave the Deficiency as a Load of Debt upon the Miserable Bankrupt, is a Villany far greater than the Debtors Disaster ; nay, tho' it was accompanied with more Knavery, that forty P——s, or the worst Sham Instance, Mr. W——r could pretend to instance in.

All Men therefore are hereby warn'd to Arm themselves against Violences so Scandalous ; just Creditors are to be dealt with, with all the Openness and Integrity possible, and no Debtor ought to Conceal himself, or his Effects, from a just Restitution to them ; but Commissions of Bankrupt, as now Practis'd, are such Depreda-

tions and Invasions upon Common Justice, such Oppressions upon the sinking Fortunes of Distress'd Families, that I cannot think any Debtor oblig'd to the same Measures with such People, as they are with others ——— When therefore I am advising all Men to be Honest and open to their Creditors, and freely to tender their All for their Satisfaction ; I think I make no Breach upon this Honesty, if I say, the Debtor is not in Conscience bound to any Measures with a Commission ; self-Defence is the Sovereign Law of Nature, and as this is now Practis'd, for I would be taken right ; I think the Law of Self-Defence, Arms the Debtor against these ravenous Harpies, as it Arms a Traveller against the Assaults of a Highway-man or a Cut-Throat.

If all Debtors would manage their Affairs thus, Commissions would grow out of Fashion ; for Men would see, that Proceeding that way, they could get nothing but by force and Proceeding by Moderation, to fair and equal Treaties, Encourag'd Honest Men to come in, and in hopes of Liberty and Deliverance, obtain'd the utmost of what they could do.

Nor let any Man dispute with me, this just Exclamation against the Barbarities of Commissioners, unless they will Vindicate at the same time, their General Practise with Bankrupt Estates ; which if they will Attempt, I promise to give such an Index of their Management of poor Mens Estates, such a *Black List* of their Robberies and Plunderings of the Miserable, as shall convince the World, some of our Hackney Commissioners, deserve more to be Hang'd in Chains, than ever the two Miserable Objects did, that Hang on the Road to *Stratford*, for one of the worst sort of Murders.

Nor am I so easily fear'd from telling the Truth, as to be afraid to give their very Names, with the History of every Action ; for why should I blush to Write ; what they rather ought to blush to read, and what is so plain to be made out, that no Man will attempt to scruple the Fact ?

In short, the *English Rogue* would be a Fool to the Horrid Collection of Villanies, Practis'd by these Law Tyrants, who revel in the Blood of Families, and eat up the Food of the Starving Debtors; who Sell D-btor and Creditor, for the Maintenance of their Lusts, and not devour the Widows Houses only, but the Widows themselves.

How many Languishing Debtors have Perish'd, under the Barbarous Operation of these *Surgeons*? How many Families have been Starv'd by them, and yet the Creditors not Paid? How many miserable Men lie in Gaol now, or are fled from their Families, for the Money these Monsters have spent? *Blith, W...*, Tremble, *P...*, and *R...*, and *S...*, and twenty more of the Hackney *Statute-Mongers* of the Town, that wait for Men's fall, as the Ravens for the Carcass, and like the Burial Merchants, that watch at the Doors, and Bribe the Servants to give Notice of the last Breath, that they may come in for the Funeral; so watch at the Office, and are in Fee with the Attornies, to be Named to Commissions, and crowd to set their Hands to the Destruction of Mens Fortunes.

Nor, Gendemen, let your Wrath be kindled at the poor Author of this, lest in my own justification, I descend to the Horrid Particulars; and your Names being known to the Description of your Practice, it should be dangerous for you to go about the Streets.

Flatter not your selves with Impunity, in the destructive manner of your Proceedings; Crimes so Universally Odious, and so detested by Mankind in General, will at last wake the sleeping Justice of the Nation, and tho' you have mis'd your Fate this Session, fear not your Cruelties, and Depredations, cannot be long Liv'd, they are grown up to too great a height to be born with; and if Authority does not one time or other, Suppress this Scandal to the Nation, it will be a Scandal to that very Authority it self.

It may be Suggested, by the Conjectu-

ring part of Mankind; sure the Author of this has fall'n into very Ill Hands, that he Exclaims so warmly against the Commissioners; he has certainly been under the Hands of Commissioners, and been Ill us'd; and this Argument would lessen the force of what I say, as Partial to my self, being a Party concern'd.

But to your Misfortune too, this is False, tho' I have had a large share of Misfortunes in the World, and no Man more; yet it has pleas'd Providence hitherto, to keep me out of such Hands, and my Knowledge of the Barbarous Usage of the Debtor, by those Abstracted Thieves, I call Commissioners, is hitherto not at my own Cost, but at the Cost of others, whose Families I have seen Undone, and whose Creditors I have seen Cheated, while these People, have made Merry with the Disaster, when 1500 to 2000*l.* has been recovered of the Bankrupt Estate; the Goods are first Apprais'd at half their worth, and Sold to Persons that give a share to be let into the Bargain at a good price; pretended Suites at Law Commenc'd on Litigious Accounts, that the Commissioner being an Attorney, may have the Cause and the Paying himself; and at last the whole 2000*l.* has been spent, and 2*s.* in the Pound Contribution, and at the End, the poor Debtor is left in Gaol, all his Effects Consum'd, and not one Penny the less in Debt; the Creditor loses all his Debt, and 10 *per Cent.* added to it, and is perhaps ruin'd by the Loss; and the leading Commissioners get perhaps 500*l.* a Man by the Destruction of the Families, and for squandering away their Estate.

No wonder Men are driven to Despair, and Destroy themselves, under the barbarous Instances of this New way of Murder. No wonder poor Mr *Everet*, stab'd himself at *Cambury-House*, and left it behind him, that any Death was more Eligible, and more tolerable than the Extremities of an Embroil'd, and Irrecoverable Calamity of Debt and Disaster.

And here I cannot but give a short hint
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of this poor Man's End; I had the occasion to know the Circumstances of this poor Man; he was a Shipwright in *Roßbergh*, had Liv'd well, and was a Sensible Capable Man, but reduc'd to Distress, had been a Prisoner in *Ludgate* several Months, and I must add to the Satisfaction of that Unknown Gentleman, that has Truſted me with the Disposal of his Charity; this poor Man was Recommended to me as a Person greatly Distress'd, having five Children, and no Employ.

The Relief I administred, and of which I have an Acknowledgment, and 'tis hard, for I verily believe, adjourn'd his cruel Resolution near three Weeks, and he had about 4 s. of it left, when he Executed his unhappy Design, which was all Cruel Creditors and tedious Sufferings had left him.

I instance it however, to tell that Gentleman, what Effects his Tenderneſs to the Miserable, *which I have distributed with the utmost Caution and Faithfulness*, may have had. How many desperate Creatures it may have effectually prevail'd upon to lay aside wild Resolutions, who knows? — And I add it farther, as a Glass to represent to merciless Creditors, the Effect of their Cruelty on the Minds of ruin'd Men made miserable by unsufferable Pressures.

WHEREAS, there is an Advertisement in the Daily Courant, of Yesterday, Sign'd by Mr. Robinson, and signifying that he did not give leave to Print his Name to a Book, Entitled Scepticism, and Fundamental Errors in Mr. Clark's Sermons, &c.

These are to give Notice, that the said Name of Robinson, was put to the said Book by Mr. Robinson's own Order, Signify'd to the Printer Mr. Matthews, under his own Hand, which lies ready at the said Printers, to be shown to any that desires it. — However 'tis hop'd, the Merit and Argument in the said Book, will so recommend it self to all Sober Enquirers, and Lovers of Orthodox Truth, that the Book will receive no Influence from such a Trifle, as the Name of Mr. Robinson, being Printed or not Printed to it.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Thursday next will be Publish'd,

Synopsis Palmariorum Matheseos: Or, a New Introduction to the Mathematics, containing the Principles of Arithmetick and Geometry Demonstrated, in a short and Easier Method; with their Application to the most useful Parts thereof: As, Resolving of Equations, Infinite Series, making the Logarithms; Interest, Simple and Compound; the chief Properties of the Conic Sections; Mensuration of Surfaces and Solids; the Fundamental Precepts of Perspective; Trigonometry; the Laws of Motion apply'd to Mechanic Powers, Gunnery, &c. Designed for the benefit, and adapted to the Capacities of Beginners. By William Jones. Printed for Jefferys Wale, at the Angel in St Paul's Church-Yard, 1705.

THE Royal Effence for the Hair of the Head and Perriwigs, being the most delicate and charming Perfume in Nature, and the greatest Preserver of Hair in the World for it keeps that of Perriwigs (a much longer time than usual) in the Curl, and fair Hair from fading or changing colour, makes the Hair of the Head grow thick, strengthen and confirms its Roots, and effectually prevents it from falling off or splitting at the ends, makes the Powder continue in all Hair longer than it possibly will, by the use of any other thing. By its incomparable Odour and Fragancy it strengthens the Brain, revives the Spirits quickens the Memory and makes the Heart cheerful, never raises the Vapours in Ladies, &c. being wholly free from (and as abundantly more delightful and pleasant than Musk, Civet, &c.) 'Tis indeed an unparalled fine Scent for the Pocket, and perfumes Handkerchiefs, &c. excellently. To be had only at Mr. *Alcraſter*, a Toyshop at the Blue-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill. Sealed up, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions. Beware of Counterfeits, such are abroad, accompanied with Base Insinuations, and Romanick-tences

Lately publish'd,

A Geographical and Historical Account of the Principality of Catalonia, and Earl-dom of *Barcelona*. Containing the Description of that Country and City, and of all of their Places of Note, and its Principal Rivers, the Succession of its Princes, and all Notable Revolutions from the first Ages, to this present time. London, Printed, and sold by *John Nutt*, near Stationers Hall, 1705.